



Permanent Hall of Science

Dedicated September 9, 1964

Ceremony Excerpts

NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965 CORPORATION



George M. Bunker, President of the Martin Marietta Corp., speaks during dedication ceremonies. Listening from RIGHT to LEFT are Queens Borough President Mario J. Cariello, Robert Moses, President of the New York World's Fair 1964-1965 Corporation, Paul R. Screvane, President of the Council of the City of New York, Mayor Robert F. Wagner and James E. Webb, Administrator of NASA.

THE HONORABLE PAUL R. SCREVANE

President of the Council of the City of New York

We are joining in more than a mere dedication of another building at the World's Fair. What we are doing today is taking the first major step in the creation of an enduring institution.

This magnificent building will be enjoyed by all the citizens of our city and the millions of visitors during the Fair and also for generations thereafter. Today we are in the midst of a new age and a new era, one in which the scientific and technological breakthroughs are felt almost immediately in our daily lives. The average citizen is affected by the developments in laboratories and in research centers as never before in the history of man. Thus even the taste, as well as the safety, of the water we drink and the food we eat are immediately affected by scientific and technological research. We and our children must learn more than we know now about this vast body of knowledge, its methods, its language and its history. None of us can afford to be illiterate in the language of science. Our schools and colleges and our universities have the primary task of instructing the young in the ways and principles of science. The schools have accepted that responsibility.

But other institutions, both public and private, also have responsibilities to discharge. This Hall of Science is one of the ways of meeting one of those responsibilities. We foresee here an institution of excellence, dedicated to serving the entire community and the country. New York City is noted as a worldwide scientific and research center. It is also a center for many of the great industrial and technological complexes of our nation. We are very proud of this. We hope that this new establishment will serve to enhance that position of pre-eminence.

THE HONORABLE MARIO J. CARIELLO

President of the Borough of Queens

I welcome you today to the center of our great city which has become symbolic as a world center, and to the Hall of Science, which with what we hope to achieve, will likewise become the center of outer space. We're blessed with this sunshiny day to give added impetus and success to this wonderful project that we are about to unveil and dedicate.

This is another part of the resurgence that is going on in the Borough of Queens, and it will be one part of one of the greatest Eastern seaboard parks when all of the things we contemplate are completed.

THE HONORABLE JAMES E. WEBB

Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

As we move more deeply into the age of applied science, public understanding is extremely important: it is important to the nation in its national policies; it is important to this city and your future in it. For science is an integral part of the concepts and the hard work that maintain this nation. In your New York universities, in your schools, in this building, the disciplines of science work with all other disciplines in the American conviction that public knowledge is public strength; that one of the hard facts of international life today is that the technological balance of power is one of the most important elements in a nation's ability to influence decisions on war or peace, life or death for millions, and the means and the ends of national and international cooperation.

It is essential, I believe, in this belief, that the public realize science's problems, become familiar with its tools, appreciate its progress, recognize its relevance to technology, to engineering and indeed to all aspects of modern living, and then to share in its aspirations. So this building which we dedicate today, beyond its magnificent structure, has a great significance. It is a means of helping the thousands who will visit here to understand a field of human endeavor which



Opening of ceremonies at the dedication of the permanent Hall of Science on September 9, 1964, at the New York World's Fair.

has grown to new dimensions and new importance in our day.

It is a great credit I think to the wisdom of Robert Moses and his associates that this permanent structure is designed for retention after the Fair. And so today we dedicate a building for which New York City and New Yorkers are to be commended. We in NASA wish it every possible success and appreciate the opportunity to work with the distinguished leaders of the Fair, the City and this Borough, in making it possible.

MR. GEORGE M. BUNKER

President of the Martin-Marietta Corporation

Only a few years ago we were congratulating ourselves because we had a part in launching a satellite that was the size of a grapefruit. Today we put men into orbit and probe the moon and Venus. What you will witness here this afternoon may seem futuristic. But I assure you it is not. In less than a decade you will think it commonplace. Perhaps the most important function of a science center is to relate the foreseeable future and to open people's eyes to its possibilities.

In this Hall of Science, with its comforting assurance of permanency, we are hopeful of stirring the imaginations of a younger generation. In this Hall, the Orville Wrights, the

Robert Goddards, and the John Glenns of the future may have their ambitions fired and their energies directed toward the promise of the space age. This is what makes us particularly happy to have made a significant contribution to this Hall and to the new permanent Science Center. It is therefore with great pride and pleasure that I turn over the Martin exhibit, "Rendezvous in Space," to Mayor Wagner and to the City of New York.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT MOSES

*President of the New York World's Fair
1964-1965 Corporation*

Science was old two thousand five hundred years ago. Willard Gibbs and Albert Einstein, working with logic rather than elaborate laboratory equipment, gave us basic formulas of mathematical physics, but Democritus of Abdera, with no laboratory at all, was there long before them. The relation of science to the humanities plagued the sages of Athens. The Greeks anticipated Freud. They had a word for it — psychiatry. As the Preacher in the Old Testament remarked, there is really nothing new under the sun.

I remarked at the June 15th opening of the Hall of Sci-

ence that we at the Fair have been charged with favoring business above culture, science above the arts and fun above religion and the eternal verities, as though the sum total of human knowledge, faith and endeavor can be exactly and mathematically divided into exclusive, sealed, vacuum packed, air tight compartments. This is nonsense. These objectives overlap and run together. The subdivisions are for convenience only. There is contrast and emphasis, but not necessarily conflict between science and the humanities. We promised that our Hall of Science would in the broadest sense include all the humanities. It will.

If the assertive, bright minds who chatter about form and function were familiar with the classics they would know that useful things are not necessarily beautiful, but that beauty always has use, I believe Wallace Harrison has illustrated this maxim in this Hall. It is of course impossible to explain architecture. I have admitted before that I don't know what Wally Harrison had in mind, and perhaps he doesn't know himself — the cleft rock, convolution, whelk, at once a fortress and a cathedral where some unseen organ is to play without bells, bellows, pipes, keyboards or human hands, literally a tour de force where a gigantic toy seeks to elucidate science to the multitude.

As to the future, the campus we envision here in the

Park after the Fair will be large enough to accommodate whatever government research and private philanthropy can be persuaded to provide. On this auspicious occasion, the moon is one of our objectives. I like particularly the concept of Frank Capra and his sponsors of a sort of second shift or changing of the guard high above our small planet, a strategic way station to the galaxies of outer space.

There is today extraordinary public interest in space exploration. Where man's mechanical forerunner has gone, he is bound to follow. Meanwhile, an ingenious three-dimensional show will serve to explain the fourth dimension. A man's reach, as Browning said, should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?

Millions will see this counterfeit presentment. Our thanks to the City, to the National Aeronautics and Space Agency, to Martin-Marietta and to all the others who have been engaged in producing this extraordinary spectacle.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT F. WAGNER

Mayor of the City of New York

I feel great pride and satisfaction in being with you today to dedicate this Hall of Science, temporarily a part of the World's Fair, but destined to be a permanent and major fix-

ture and feature of the Borough of Queens and an important addition to the cultural and educational facilities of the City of New York.

Surely, this must be more than a showcase of modern gadgetry and a carnival of scientific magic. It must instruct, inspire and enrich and it must do more: it must dramatize the unity of the world and its place in the universe. The incredible marvel of the human brain is that it integrates learning and experience. At the same time, however, a major effect of the continuing scientific advance has been to make the integration of knowledge increasingly difficult. Science divides knowledge and the world into an increasing number of components, just as it has taught us how to divide matter itself into smaller and smaller units. Perhaps in this Hall of Science knowledge can be put back together again in as much one piece as possible. In this Hall of Science, the advances of science will be reflected and the history of science will be dramatized. Here there will be demonstrated the great ladder which leads from the firm footing of tested facts upward, upward, toward the moon, toward our sister planets, and outward into boundless space.

All of the scientific world must feel that this is to be *their* center for the public display of scientific achievements, for communication to the lay world, and for graphic teaching

to the young. This is what I hope to see rise here. This is what I hope the scientific world will come to expect to see here and to participate in creating. This is our purpose.

Communication is essential, not only between the different branches of science but above all between the men of science and the workaday world, the world of government and of every day thought and action. Just as no man is an island by himself, so no science, nor even the whole of science is an island by itself. Science is a part of the continent of knowledge and part of the world of mankind. The basic idea of democracy is that all men thinking and acting together should direct the future of each nation and hence of the world and that their decisions should be based on all available knowledge, including scientific knowledge.



James E. Webb, administrator of NASA, Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Thomas J. Deegan, chairman of the World's Fair Executive Committee, and Robert Moses, president of the Fair, look off into "outer space," during dedication of the Hall of Science.

Come to the Fair in 1965



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